

Part I. India

Part II. U.S. Consulate General information

U.S. Consulate General, Chennai, India

Address: 220 Mount Road, Chennai 600006

Phone: 91 (44) 2857-4000

Fax: 91 (44) 2857-4344 (American citizen services)

Website: www.Chennai.usconsulate.gov

State Department Country Specific Information:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1139.html

State Department Travel information

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Enrollment with the U.S. Consulate General

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/registration/registration_4789.html

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors

Country profile: See "Background Note: India"

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3454.htm>

Religious Activities For Visitors: See Post Reports On Line for Chennai

http://mmsweb.a.state.gov/asp/postreport/view/pr_view.asp?CntryID=69

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Consular District:

Disclaimer: The U.S. Consulate, Chennai, India, assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following firms. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

1) J Fenn & Co

348 & 350 Anna Salai

Chennai 600006

India

Phone: 91 (44) 2829 0628; (91) 944 443 1280

E-mail: JFennandcompany@yahoo.co.in

Fenn and Co offers services in Chennai and Pondicherry.

- 2) Kumar and Co International
17/1 6th Cross, Malleswaram
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560003
India
Phone: 91 (80) 2336 7925
E-mail: undertakers@kumarandco.com

- 3) GAC Shipping India Pvt. Ltd.
No.15, C.H.A. Building,
Cochin-683 111, Kerala
India
Phone: 91 484 2611019
E-mail: aircargo.cochin@gac.com

- 4) John Pinto International P. Ltd – Undertaker (services throughout India)

28, Ready Money Building, Shop #7, Clara Road, Byculla
Mumbai Central Mumbai 400008
Phone: 022-23076190, 022-23071927
Mobile: 011-91-9820239409 or 011-91-9869433609
Email: johnpintointl@yahoo.co.in

Embalming is done in all Government run hospitals and selected private hospitals in Chennai's consular district. Mortuaries are available in all Government run hospitals and a few private hospitals in South India. Embalming is mandatory if the remains are to be shipped. The laws governing shipment of remains apply nationwide.

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

Due to limited refrigerated storage facilities available at hospitals, prompt arrangements for transfer of the body to a funeral home are required.

1. Maximum period before burial:

Embalmed remains may be held for an indefinite period if authorized by a physician or local health authorities. Depending on space in the mortuary and other factors, unclaimed remains may be held for only a short period, perhaps 72 hours. In other cases, unclaimed remains may be held one month up or more depending upon the nature of death. In the event attempts to locate next-of-kin have failed, the unclaimed remains may be disposed of in a manner deemed appropriate by the police. The remains may be handed over to a teaching medical institution or a hospital for the purpose of anatomical examination.

2. Embalming:

Embalming facilities are available at all major cities in the consular district. Embalming should be carried out as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours of death. Embalming in India involves injecting formalin into the jugular/femoral vein; the amount injected depends on the condition/weight of the remains and the cause of death.

3. Cremation:

Local and national law permits cremation. Cremation is done according to local customs on pyres of fire-wood and cowdung cakes. Electric crematoria also exist in all major cities.

4. Caskets and Containers:

Caskets and containers meet the requirements for shipment out of the country. They are constructed by professional undertakers.

5. Exportation of remains:

The following certificates must accompany the remains when they are removed from one state to another:

- 1) Official death certificate;
- 2) Permission from the Police Commissioner or the District Magistrate.

The following certificates are required to ship ashes abroad:

- 1) Official death certificate;
- 2) Certificate from the crematory;
- 3) A sealing certificate issued by the undertaker.

The following certificates must be produced along with the customs shipping bill filed with the customs authorities for shipping remains abroad:

- 1) Official death certificate;
- 2) Permission from the Police Commissioner or District Magistrate;
- 3) Certificate of Embalming from the physician;
- 4) An affidavit from undertaker stating that the remains have been properly packed;
- 5) Consular Mortuary Certificate.

6. Costs:

All charges are approximate.

- a) Local Burial: Fees include collection of remains, teak plywood coffin, masonry grave and administrative fees - \$800 in major cities, \$1,250 outside major cities;
- b) Cremation to include collection and disposition of ashes - \$450 in major cities, \$680 outside major cities;
- c) Cremation to include collection of ashes in a simple urn - \$510 in major cities, \$680 outside major cities;
- d) Embalming and shipment:
 - a) Shipment of ashes to U.S. - \$1,360

- b) Shipment of human remains to the U.S. - \$3,000 - \$6500 (Note: Cost may vary based on the location and the undertaker)

The weight of securely packed remains is usually about 100-125 kilograms.

7. Exhumation:

Permission must be obtained from the local magistrate.

8. Autopsies:

Autopsies are performed when death occurs as a result of an accident or when the cause of death is unknown. There is no waiver of autopsy available, even for religious objections, if the local authorities deem it necessary.

9. Remarks:

Occasionally, administrative delays in exportation may occur if local officials are not familiar with the process.